

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CU-02 HEW-02 AID-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 EUR-12 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 USIA-06

IGA-01 /065 W

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R 101220Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0095

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, SU

SUBJ: CRITICAL GOS PROBLEM RE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

1. HEAD FONMIN AMERICAN DEPARTMENT, AMBADDADOR AMOROSE WOL, SUMMONED AMBASSADOR JULY 10 TO APPEAL FOR HELP IN ASSURING ABSORPTION HIGH NUMBER QUALIFIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, MALE AND FEMALE, WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED THEIR COURSES. AS RESULT OVER-RAPID EXPANSION IN SECONDARY SCHOOL FACILITIES, NUMBER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES THIS MONTH HAD REACHED 25,000. DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ONLY ABLE ABSORB SOME 8,000. AS RESULT, BEMOANED WOL, SUDAN "DROWNING" IN SOME 17,000 YOUNG QUALIFIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO EXPECT CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION AND IN ANY CASE LACK TECHNICAL SKILLS WHICH MIGHT PERMIT THEIR EMPLOYMENT.

2. WOL SAID THIS SERIOUS SITUATION HAD BEEN SUBJECT CABINET REVIEW LAST WEEK. IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO APPEAL TO ALL "FRIENDLY COUNTRIES" TO SEE WHETHER ANY OF THESE YOUNG SUDANESE MIGHT BE ACCEPTED FOR TECHNICAL OR OTHER TRAINING IN THOSE COUNTRIES. WOL WAS WELL AWARE, HE SAID, OF FACT AUTUMN ENROLLMENTS AT US INSTITUTIONS HIGHER LEARNING ALREADY COMPLETED BUT HOPED SOMETHING MIGHT BE WORKED OUT WHICH WOULD ASSIST IN RESOLVING PRESENT CRITICAL PROBLEM. AMBASSADOR DENG WOULD BE CONTACTED IN DUE COURSE, BUT WOL SAID IT HAD BEEN THOUGHT

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PREFERABLE MAKE INITIAL APPROACH HERE. FONMIN AHMED HAS BEEN

ASKED SUBMIT STATUS REPORT TO CABINET IN TWO WEEKS RE INITIAL REACTIONS

MINISTRY'S APPROACHES.

3. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE WOULD, OF COURSE, REPORT WOL'S COMMENTS TO WASHINGTON BUT COULD NOT BE OPTIMISTIC THAT USG COULD BE HELPFUL. NOT ONLY WERE ENROLLMENTS ALREADY COMPLETED, BUT WASHINGTON EXERCISED LIMITED CONTROL OVER AMERICAN EDUCATION WHICH LARGELY PRIVATE OR LEFT TO STATES. NOTING WOL HAD EMPHASIZED NEED FOR SPACES, AMBASSADOR WONDERED WHETHER GOS MIGHT BE PREPARED FINANCE TRAINING IF SPACES COULD BE FOUND. WOL REPLIED THAT FINANCIAL HELP WOULD, OF COURSE, BE WELCOME BUT, IF SPACES FOUND, GOS WOULD THEN SEE WHETHER IT COULD NOT BEAR AT LEAST PART OF THE COST. AMBASSADOR PROMISED PROVIDE DEPT'S INITIAL REACTION AS SOON AS RECEIVED.

4. COMMENT. SUDANESE UMBRELLA PARENT-TEACHERS ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN MEETING IN KHARTOUM AND WILL MEET WITH NIMEIRI. WE SUSPECT FOREGOING REFLECTS GROWING "GRASS ROOTS" PRESSURE ON AUTHORITIES. LARGE NUMBER COUNTRIES EVIDENTLY CURRENTLY BEING APPROACHED (SOVIET AMBASSADOR WAS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY AT SAME TIME AS AMBASSADOR). WHILE WE DO NOT SEE HOW USG CAN BE OF SIGNIFICANT HELP, PROBLEM IS TYPICAL OF CONFLICTING DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES WITHIN WORLD'S POOREST COUNTRIES WHICH DEVELOPED WORLD PRESUMABLY WOULD NOT WISH APPEAR IGNORE. SINCE ADMISSION TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING HERE IS SO COMPETITIVE AND SELECTIVE, SOME OF UNPLACED STUDENTS ARE NO DOUBT FULLY QUALIFIED (INCLUDING KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH). EMBASSY ACCORDINGLY HOPES IT MAY PROVE FEASIBLE FOR OUR RESPONSE TO INCLUDE AT LEAST SOME POSITIVE ELEMENTS. TO THIS END, RECOMMEND IIE REPEAT IIE AND AFME REPEAT AFME BE APPROACHED INFORMALLY TO SEE WHETHER VACANCIES MAY STILL EXIST FOR QUALIFIED STUDENTS IN TECHNICAL OR NON-TECHNICAL COLLEGE-LEVEL INSTITUTIONS. AALC REPEAT AALC MIGHT ALSO BE HELPFUL RE PLACEMENT. PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS MIGHT THEN CONCEIVABLY BE FOUND WILLING ASSISTRE SOME FINANCING, PARTICULARLY FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING WHICH SO DESPERATELY NEEDED HERE, BUT IDENTIFICATION AVAILABLE SPACES BY ITSELF WOULD BE HELPFUL. OBVIOUSLY ANY POSITIVE RESPONSE CAN INVOLVE ONLY VERY LIMITED NUMBERS (E.G. 10-20 SPACES), BUT CHARACTER RESPONSE, RATHER THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIFIC NUMBERS INVOLVED, WOULD SEEM BE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION.

5. WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL PRELIMINARY RESPONSE BY JULY 20 WHEN FONMIN WILL HAVE RETURNED FROM JIDDA ISLAMIC CONFERENCE.

BREWER

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